

Appl. No. : 10/717,702
Filed : November 19, 2003

REMARKS

The Applicant request entry of the amendments set forth above. In the Office Action mailed June 13, 2007 the Examiner allowed Claims 1 - 7 and 22 - 28 and objected to Claims 10, 16, 17, 19, 30, and 32. Claims 8, 9, 11 - 15, 18, 20, 21, 29, 31, and 33 - 35 were rejected.

In response, the Applicants thank the Examiner for the detailed Office Action. The Applicants have amended Claims 8, 14, and 29 to incorporate the limitations of the base claim with the limitation of the objected to claim to place additional claims in condition for allowance. In addition, the Applicants have added new Claims 36 - 55. Each claim group is discussed below in detail.

Allowed Claims 1 - 7

Claims 1 - 7 are allowed by the Examiner. These claims are original and as such remain in condition for allowance.

Objected To Claim 10

The Examiner objected to Claim 10. In response, the Applicants have amended Claim 8 to include the limitations of Claim 10, which places Claim 8 in condition for allowance. Claim 10 is cancelled. Claims 9 and 11 - 13 continue to depend from Claim 8 and are submitted as being allowable based on these claims' dependence on an allowable independent claim.

Appl. No. : 10/717,702
Filed : November 19, 2003

Objected To Claim 16

The Examiner objected to Claim 16, which depends from Claim 14. The Applicants have amended Claim 14 to include the limitation of Claim 16, which places Claim 14 in condition for allowance. Claim 16 is cancelled. Claims 15 and 17 - 21 continue to depend from Claim 14 and are submitted as being allowable based on these claims' dependence on an allowable independent claim.

Allowed Claims 22 - 28

Claims 22 - 28 are allowed by the Examiner. These claims are original and as such remain in condition for allowance.

Objected To Claim 30

The Examiner objected to Claim 30. In response, the Applicants have amended Claim 29 to include the limitations of Claim 30 which places Claim 29 in condition for allowance. Claim 30 is cancelled. Claims 31 - 35 continue to depend from Claim 29 and are submitted as being allowable based on these claims' dependence on an allowable independent claim.

New Claims 36 - 42

The Applicants have added new Claims 36 - 42. New independent Claim 36 comprises the limitations of Claim 14 and the limitations from Claim 17. Claim 17 was previously objected to by the Examiner and, as such, new Claim 36 is directed to the combined subject matter of Claim 14 and 17. New Claim 36, which is the combination of Claims 14 and 17, is submitted as being allowable based on the Examiner's objection to Claim 17 in the Office Action.

Appl. No. : 10/717,702
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Claims 37 - 42 which depend from Claim 36, are generally identical to Claims 15, 16, and 18 - 21 and are submitted as also being allowable based on these claims' dependence on an allowable independent claim.

New Claims 43 - 49

The Applicants have added new Claims 43 - 49. New Claim 43 comprises the limitations of Claim 14 and the limitations from Claim 19. Claim 19 was previously objected to by the Examiner and, as such, new Claim 43 is directed to the combined subject matter of Claim 14 and 19. New Claim 43, which is the combination of Claims 14 and 19, is submitted as being allowable based on the Examiner's objection to Claim 19 in the Office Action.

Claims 44 - 49 which depend from Claim 43, are identical to Claims 15 - 18 and 20 - 21 and are submitted as also being allowable based on these claims' dependence on an allowable independent claim.

New Claims 50 - 55

The Applicants have added new Claims 50 - 55. New Claim 50 comprises the limitations of Claim 29 and the limitations from Claim 32. Claim 32 was previously objected to by the Examiner and, as such, new Claim 50 is directed to the combined subject matter of Claim 29 and 32. New Claim 50, which is the combination of Claims 29 and 32, is submitted as being allowable based on the Examiner's objection to Claim 32 in the Office Action.

Claims 51 - 55 which depend from Claim 50, are identical to Claims 30, 31, and 33 - 35 and are submitted as also being allowable based on these claims' dependence on an allowable independent claim.

Appl. No. : 10/717,702
Filed : November 19, 2003

SUMMARY

Applicants assert that Claims 1 - 9, 11 - 15, 17 - 29, and 31 - 55 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice as to the same. If any matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Dated: 10/2/07

Respectfully submitted,
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